

**From:** HarborComments <HarborComments@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 07, 2016 1:00 PM  
**To:** PortlandHarbor  
**Subject:** FW: Clean Up Portland Harbor  
**Attachments:** 349022699921705833.pdf

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**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 06, 2016 6:58 PM  
**To:** HarborComments <[HarborComments@epa.gov](mailto:HarborComments@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Clean Up Portland Harbor



### Clean Up Portland Harbor

Letter

Dr. Ms. McCarthy, The proposed cleanup of the Portland Harbor is a big win for industry and a bad deal for the public. EPA's cleanup proposal tackles just 8% of a site area that is 100% toxic. A more aggressive plan is needed to prevent even more harm to human health and the environment. On behalf of all people who rely on the river for food, recreation, employment and culture, I urge the EPA to implement a plan that: Moves quickly and sustainably reduces contaminants causing harm to Willamette and Columbia River resources. Includes ongoing monitoring and cleanup upriver and downriver from the site. Contributes to healthy fish that are safe to eat for all people. Holds polluters accountable for creating a safer Portland Harbor. These elements get us closer to the plan our communities deserve. And I deserve a clean, safe Portland Harbor. \*Submitted during the comment period between June 9, 2016 to August 8, 2016 regarding the EPA's Portland Harbor Feasibility Study and Proposed Plan.

First Name

(b) (6)

Last Name

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[September 6th.docx](#)

September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016

To: Gina McCarthy  
Environmental Protection Agency Administrator

Dear Ms. McCarthy,

Thank you for all the work you and your staff have done to date on this most difficult superfund.

I grew up in North Portland, playing on the Willamette River, and I'm a neighborhood activist who has worked with the Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group advocating for a thorough cleanup of the lower 11 miles of the River.

The 21<sup>st</sup> century is all about transitioning from the industrial growth model to a sustainable human culture. This involves dealing with our legacy wastes which are everywhere, and doing so in the time of climate change and global upheaval. Watching the Portland Harbor Superfund process as it culminates into the Record of Decision, and having been a witness to the Hanford Nuclear Reservation "cleanup" over the years, I can only feel a deep disappointment in what we're willing to do at this crucial time in human and ecological history.

It basically boils down to—doing it cheaply and quickly—and using the 20<sup>th</sup> century industrial cleanup methods of cap and dredge and monitored natural recovery—do nothing. Bioremediation, alternative in situ cleanup techniques have not been taken seriously which just amazes me in this 21<sup>st</sup> century. The response is—We don't know if it will work—an astounding rational in a country that prides itself as being first and best. Portland has this cool rep as being the green and sustainable place. I have problems with this image but why not make the most of it—take the lead and really do a cleanup on this river that will be a model for cleanups everywhere for years to come? What—I repeat—absolutely what do we have to lose?

In a study I just learned of [Scientists Linking Autism to PCBs and Other Chemicals](#) it was determined that two compounds in -- PCB 138/158 and PCB 153 -- stood out as being significantly linked with autism risk when their mothers are exposed during the second trimester of pregnancy. As we've learned, PCBs become air born and therefore have a huge risk potential for people living near the River. I and some other volunteers are hoping to petition the CDC for a human health study for these kinds of risks related to the superfund.

I know your job is impossible and that a real cleanup of the River seems impossible—but we're ready to take some real strides into the 21<sup>st</sup> century to become real stewards of this earth. Please help us.

Sincerely,

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Portland, OR 97203

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